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OLC 71-2047

30 November 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Conversation with Senator John Stennis

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1. Today the Director told Colonel White and me of his conversation yesterday with Senator Stennis. The Director had called to thank the Senator for his support in defeating the Symington amendment, which would have imposed a [] ceiling on the budget for the intelligence community. The Senator replied that the Director was an easy man to defend because he was doing an excellent job.

2. The Senator then said he had a matter to discuss personally with the Director, and they arranged to meet later in the day. On that occasion, the Senator said he felt the Senate should take the CIA budget out of the Armed Services Procurement bill and put it in "O&M," thus avoiding the authorization process. He said this would relieve the Armed Services Committee of responsibility for the Agency budget and place it exclusively in the hands of the Appropriations Committee. If this was done, he said, he felt he could more safely have regular meetings of the Intelligence Subcommittee without opening the way for Senator Symington to delve into budgetary matters. However, Senator Stennis noted that Chairman Mahon, of the House Appropriations Committee, had been opposed to this suggestion.

3. The Director said he had recalled to Senator Stennis a session of the Armed Services Committee in 1967 when Mr. Shackley had briefed the Committee, with Senator Stennis acting as Chairman, and in the presence of Senator Symington, on CIA operations in Laos. The Director noted that at that time Senator Symington had commented favorably on the Agency's program in Laos. The Director asked me to check the records and prepare a memorandum summarizing that session.

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4. I told the Director of Mr. Braswell's persistent requests for documentation and clarification on the various responsibilities of members of the intelligence community, relationships among them, and the role of the Agency and the Director in the community. The Director said that such documentation could not be provided by the Agency and instructed that I go with Mr. Tweedy to OMB--preferably Mr. Dam--and make clear that these are questions which can properly be handled only by OMB.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Sen. Stennis

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